

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Official Action mailed July 21, 2006.
Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully considered.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The claims are amended as indicated above to obviate the rejection by addressing each issue listed as 5. a. through 5. e. in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Suganuma et al. (JP 08-255396) in view of Suzuki (JP 07-029279). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Suganuma teaches a recording media drive apparatus that includes a body, a front panel covering the front of the body and having an insertion/removal opening for inserting and removing recording media to and from the body, a slider and an eject button.

Suzuki teaches a disk loading device.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a recording media drive apparatus for use with recording media that includes a body, a front panel covering the front of the body and having an insertion/removal opening for inserting and removing the recording media to and from the body, a slider provided within the body for inducing an eject motion for ejecting the recording media installed within the body from the insertion/removal opening as a result of pushing from the front and an eject button projecting forwards from the front panel and operable to move with the slider. Claim 1 recites that the front panel is supported in a detachable manner as a result of front panel engagement with the body with the front panel engagement being achieved by moving the front panel towards the body and a force to move the front panel in a direction away from the body acts in a direction releasing the front panel engagement. Claim 1 recites that eject button engagement is achieved as a result of causing the eject button to move towards the slider

and a force causing the eject button to move in a direction away from the slider acts in a direction releasing the eject button engagement. Also, claim 1 recites that the eject button engagement is achieved by mutual engagement of an eject button engaging hole provided at one of the eject button and the slider and an eject button engaging projection provided at the remaining one of the eject button and the slider and an eject button inclined surface is formed at the eject button engaging projection or an edge of an opening of the eject button engaging hole so as to cause the eject button engaging projection or the eject button engaging hole to move in a direction away from the eject button engaging hole or the eject button engaging projection as a result of applying force to cause the eject button to move in a direction away from the slider.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests an eject button inclined surface is formed at the eject button engaging projection or an edge of an opening of the eject button engaging hole so as to cause the eject button engaging projection or the eject button engaging hole to move in a direction away from the eject button engaging hole or the eject button engaging projection as a result of applying force to cause the eject button to move in a direction away from the slider. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites. For instance, claim 2 recites that a front panel inclined surface is formed at the front panel engaging projection or at an edge of an opening of the front panel engaging hole so as to cause the engaging projection or the front panel engaging hole to move in a direction away from the front panel engaging hole or the front panel engaging projection as a result of applying force to cause the front panel to move in a direction away from the body

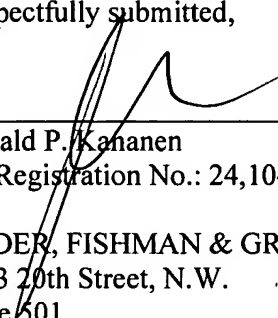
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Dated: August 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ronald P. Kananen
Registration No.: 24,104

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W.
Suite 501
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 955-3750
Attorney for Applicant

Enclosures: Amendment Transmittal

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